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BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

May 1939

To. The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee of the Borough of Cowbridge.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1938 which I have drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 1928 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health:-

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)...	84
Estimated Population (Registrar General)... ...	1036
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book...	289
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	322
Rateable Value of District...	£5897

The Borough of Cowbridge is a small Market Town surrounded by a large agricultural area. As there are no large industries in the District, most of the men in constant employment obtain work outside the District. During the year under review employment has been available at the Air Base in St.Athan and the Arsenal in course of construction at Waterton in the Penybont Rural District.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

The following statistics furnished by the Registrar General Relate to the net births and deaths within the Borough after correction for inward and outward transfers:-

	Total	Male	Female	
Live Births (Legitimate)	12	3	9	Birth Rate per 1,000 18.5
Live Births (Illegitimate)	2	-	2	
Stillbirths...	2	2	-	
Deaths (all ages)..	16	11	5	Death Rate per 1000 15.4

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis...	Nil.
Other puerperal causes... ...	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:-

Number of Deaths....1 Infant Mortality Rate...71.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)...	3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)..	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)... ...	Nil.

The total number of deaths of residents of the Borough during the year 1938 was 16. This is equivalent to a death-rate of 15.4 on an estimated population of 1,036 (Registrar General). The death-rate for the year under review is 3.5 lower than the death rate for the year 1937, and is 3.8 higher than the Rate for England and Wales for the year 1938.

The following table shows the number of deaths during the year under the various causes:-

Cause of death	Male	Female	Total
Heart Disease...	2	2	4
Cancer...	2	1	3
Circulatory Diseases..	3	-	3
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Influenza	1	-	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Violence	1	-	1
Ill defined	-	1	1
Totals ...	11	5	16

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE AREA

The following are the Public Health Officers serving under the Local Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health (part time):-
Dr.D.J.Evans, M.R.C.S., (Eng) L.R.C.P., (London) M.O.H.

Sanitary Inspector:-
Clifford Morgan, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Joint Board:

Health Visitor: (Part-time)
Miss E. Rymer, S.R.N., C.M.B., Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:

As there are no laboratory facilities within the District arrangements have been made for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens at the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, The Parade, Cardiff.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The local authority contributes towards the Bridgend Isolation Hospital and the infectious disease ambulance of this Hospital is available, when necessary, for the removal of infectious cases from the District to the Hospital.

No ambulance is available within the District for non-infectious and accident cases. Whenever an ambulance is required for these cases arrangements are made with the St. John.

The total number of deaths or registrations of the Area during the year 1938 was 16. This is equivalent to a death-rate of 16.4 on an estimated population of 1,055 (Registrar-General's estimate for the year under review is 8.8 less than the death-rate for the year 1937, and is 3.2 higher than the rate for England and Wales for the year 1938).

The following table shows the number of deaths during the year under the various causes:-

Cause of death	Male	Female
Heart Disease...	2	-
Cancer...	2	-
Vascular Diseases...	2	-
Pneumonia	-	-
Influenza	1	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-
Violence	3	-
Ill defined	-	-
Totals ...	11	5

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The following are the Public Health Services in the Area:-

The Local Authority:-
Medical Officer of Health, and Staff:
Dr. D. C. Evans, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector:-
Clifford Moxon. Sanitary Inspector.
The Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board.
Health Visitor. (Part-time)
Miss E. Hymer, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Sanitary Inspector for Meat Inspection.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES:

As there are no hospitals in the Area, the Medical Officer of Health arrangements have been made for the provision of bacteriological, serological and chemical services at the Public Laboratory, The Parade, Oxford.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The local authority contribute towards the Oxfordshire County Council Isolation Hospital, and the Infectious Diseases Hospital is available, when necessary, for the reception of infectious cases from the District, in the Area.

No ambulance is available at Jill for the conveyance of infectious and accident cases. Arrangements are made with the County Council for these cases arising in the Area to be taken to the Isolation Hospital.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

This service has now been discontinued.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

There are no clinics or treatment centres established under the authority, Residents of the Borough desiring to avail themselbes of these services may visit the Child Welfare Centre, Tuberculosis and Veneral Clinics at Bridgend or Pontypridd.

HOSPITALS.

There are no hospitals situated in the District.

FEVER. The Local Authority contributes towards the Bridgend Isolation Hospital and cases of infectious disease occurring in the Area, and in which Hospital treatment is desirable, are admitted to this Hospital.

SMALLPOX. The Local Authority also contributes towards the Bridgend Smallpox Hospital.

GENERAL HOSPITAL. Patients from the District desiring Hospital treatment are admitted either to the Bridgend District General Hospital, or the Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL. A Tuberculosis Clinic established under the King Edward V11 Welsh National Memorial is situated at Bridgend about six miles from the Borough. Suspected cases are examined at the Clinic, and if necessary arrangements are made for the admission of infected persons to one of the various sanatoria under the control of the Association.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL. When necessary, expectant Mothers are admitted to either the Cardiff or Bridgend Infirmaries.

HEALTH VISITING: The following visits were made by the Health Visitor during the year under consideration:-

Number of Children on Register...	31.
Number of children under 1 year..	19
Number of children between 1 & 3 years	15
Number of children between 3 & 5 years ,.. ...	7
Total number of visits during the year ,.. ...	359
Number of children left District	4

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. A constant water supply is provided for the Borough from the Mains of the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board. Samples were taken quarterly and submitted for chemical and bacteriological analyses. The reports of the analyst have been satisfactory. There are three dwelling-houses within the District which are not connected to the water mains. The supply in two cases is obtained from rain-water storage tanks and in the case of the other the supply is obtained from a well. Samples were taken from these supplies and the results showed the water to be satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The drainage system of the Borough is very unsatisfactory and with the exception of the modern houses which are drained into cesspools, and a section of the older houses which connect up with a drain which discharges crude sewage into the River Thaw, we are dependant on the antiquated Pail and Privy

midden system.

As in previous reports I must again point out that the present system of sewage disposal is a potential danger to the Public Health and must again emphasize the urgent need of providing a proper system of sewers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. The course of the River Thaw flows through the District and enters the sea at Aberthaw approximately six miles from the Town of Cowbridge. As I have previously stated crude sewage and slop water from houses discharge into the River.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. During the year under review two privy-middens were substituted by water-closets connection with cesspits. The following table shews the present closet accommodation of the Borough:-

Water Closets connected to cesspools... ...	126
Closets connected to the Town Drain	46
Closets emptying direct into the River. ...	5
Pail Closets...	18
Middens	170

PUBLIC CLEANSING. The Local Authority contract with a local tradesman for the removal of house refuse. The refuse is collected twice weekly and disposed of, at a disused quarry about three miles outside the district.

A Sanitary Cart is kept by the local Authority and is available for the use of inhabitants of the Town for the purpose of removing the contents of cesspools and disposing of it by emptying over agricultural land.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. Sanitary Inspection of the Area is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

SHOPS. The Sanitary Inspector holds the appointment of Shops Inspector and periodical inspections are made to see that the requirements of the Shops Act 1934 are carried out.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. The Borough is situated in the centre of an agricultural area where there are no large factories and the question of smoke nuisances do not arise.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. The Local Authority has control over one swimming pool which is constructed in the bed of the River Thaw. The flow of water through the pool is continuous and every year it is dried and cleansed. During the Summer months a Caretaker is in attendance at the pool.

SCHOOLS. There are two Schools within the Borough. The Cowbridge Grammar School is situate in the centre of the Town. A constant supply of water is laid on. During the year 4 cases of scarlet fever occurred at the School.

The Cowbridge Council School is situated on Broadway and is served with a constant supply of water. The Sanitary arrangements consist of a system of pail closets, separate for sexes, and two urinals. Provision is made for the regular removal of the pail contents which are burried

SECTION D. HOUSING.

1. Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Hosuing Acts)... 93

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 153

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. ... ... Nil.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 4

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 12

2. Remedy of defects during the Year without Service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.. 21

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

(a) Proceedings undersections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices wer served requiring repairs.. ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- Nil.

(a) By Owners... ... ... Nil.
(a) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... 10

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices. 10

(a) By Owners.... 10
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... ... 7

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... . .. Nil

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Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil.

Housing Act, 1936. Part IV - Overcrowding:-

(a) (1) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of year 4

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 4

(3) Number pf persons dwelling therein 24

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year... ... ... Nil

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year... 3

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. 20

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... Nil

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... Nil

SECTION 1. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. There are three registered milk retailers dealing within the Borough. Inspections were frequently made at the dairies which were always found to be kept in a satisfactory manner. There are no producers of milk in the Area. There are also seven registered milk purveyors residing outside the area who sell milk within the district. No action was taken during the year under review under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 with regard to sampling. Most of the milk retailed within the district is by producers, and since adequate control and supervision is carried out by the Officers in whose area the milk is produced, it was considered unnecessary to submit samples for bacteriological examination.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. There is one licenced and one registered slaughter-house situated in the area. The registered slaughter-house was not used during the year under consideration. Frequent visits were made to the licenced slaughter-house which was always found to be kept in a cleanly manner. During the year 47 Cattle, 22 calves, 333 sheep and 68 pigs were slaughtered at the slaughter-houses. All the carcases and offal were inspected. A total of approximately 463 lbs of meat and offal was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed being unfit for consumption.

The following table shews the number of animals slaughtered etc., during the year under review:-

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed	18	1	22	333	58
Number inspected	18	1	22	333	58
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned.			1		
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	8	1	-	43	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	1[illegible].4	100	4.5	12.6	-
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	6.5.	-	-	-	1.8

There are four retail butcher shops within the Borough. All the premises were regularly inspected and found to be kept in a clean and satisfactory manner.

(c) ADULTERATION. The administration of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928 is not carried out by the Local Authority but by Superintendent W.C.May.

All the samples were certified by the analyst to be genuine.

SECTION F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

Scarlet Fever. While the Borough for a number of years has been free from any widespread infection, an outbreak of scarlet fever occurred during the year under review when a total of 11 cases were notified.

The outbreak occurred at the Grammar School amongst the Boarders and altogether 4 cases were notified from the School. Arrangements were made for the suspension of all Boarders from attendance and disinfection of the dormitories and other rooms. The four cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. No further case was reported from the School during the year.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease notifed etc., during the year 1938:-

Disease	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	11	10	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	-
Pneumonia... ...	2	-	2
Dysentery... ...	3	3	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Group.	NEW CASES. Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Deaths Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
35	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals....	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-

Particulars in connection with the administration of the Factory & Workshops Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS: Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4).
Factories with mechanical Power	12	-	-
Factories without mechanical power.	29	-	-
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises.	-	-	-
Total	41	-	-

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars 1	Number of defects Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted. (5)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-
Overcrowding (s.2.)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences: Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences: unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences: not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-
Other offences.	-		-	-
Total	1	1	Nil	Nil

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.

Nature of work (1)	Instances (1)	Notices Served (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Wearing Apparel			
Making etc.			
Cleaning and washing			
Household linen			
Lace, lace curtains and nets			
Curtains and furniture hangings			
Electro Place			
File making			
Brass and brass articles			
Fur pulling			
Cables and chains			
Anchors and grapnels			
Cart gear			
Locks latches and keys			
Umbrellas etc			
Artificial flowers			
Nets, other than wire nets			
Tents			
Sacks			
Racquet and tennis balls			
Paper etc., boxes paper bags			
Brush making			
Pea picking			
Feather sorting			
Carding etc.,of buttons etc.			
Stuffed toys			
Basket making			
Chocolates and sweetmeats			
Cosaques Christmas crackers			
Christmas stockings etc.			
Textile weaving			
Lampshades.			
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil

(Signed) David J. Evans.

Medical Officer of Health.